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Media Advisory

Sherry Wallace

Illinois Wesleyan University

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Sept. 20, 2001

Contact: Sherry Wallace, 309/556-3181

Media Advisory

Event: A one-woman play: "Dona Rosita's Jalapeno Kitchen"

Date: Wednesday, Sept. 26, 2001

Time: 8 p.m.

Location: Westbrook Auditorium, Presser Hall, 303 E. University Ave., Bloomington

Admission: Free, open to the public

Program: The solo theatre play sponsored by Heartland Community College, the Bloomington-Normal Education Alliance and Illinois Wesleyan, "Dona Rosita's Jalapeno Kitchen" will be performed by actress, soloist and comedienne Ruby Nelda Perez. Written and directed by Rodrigo Duarte Clark, the play centers around Dona Rosita, who invites the audience to The Last Supper in the barrio of Salsipuedes while she struggles with selling her restaurant/home of 23 years to make way for a new shopping mall. Perez is said to give a generous serving of one flavorful character after another in her performance as she interlaces English, Spanish and Spanglish. The characters she plays are hilarious, tender and vulnerable.

Based in San Antonio, Texas, Perez has performed throughout the United States and Mexico. She began her career as a solo artist in 1985 when she was asked to select and recite Latina literary works at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center. Perez's portrayals of emotionally textured characters have brought her national recognition with both Spanish and non-Spanish speaking audiences.

Perez received her theater experience at Texas A&M University in Kingsville, Texas where she studied under the direction of Joseph Rosenberg founder of El Teatro Bilingue. In 1977 Perez was one of the founders of The First Bilingual Theatre of Houston (now known as Talento Bilingue) and later in 1982 was named Artistic/Project Director of Talento Bilingue. Perez also has been featured in various film and video productions, most recently, Hector Galan's "Don't Dance with Death."

"September is a good time to bring such a play to our campus," said Monica Taylor, director of Multi-Cultural Affairs at IWU, "because it celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month."

Contact: For additional information, contact the Multi-Cultural Affairs office at 309/556-3412.